Controlling Aids

703. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(») whether Governments's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Hindu dated 28th June, 2000 captioned, "UN souiiCs alarm on AIDS"; and

(b) if so, whether any meaningful steps have been taken to counteract the disease?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of:—

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care *to* people living with HIV/ AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.